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Column One By David Courtney

MORALITY, if genuine, is not a matter of the purity of thin lips or the raininess of lily-white hands. It is robust, frank and unfeigned. It needs no hysterical incentive. It hurls no stones or tea-guns. In fact, it bears very little resemblance to the violent pranks of the thousand or so demonstrators before the Knesset on Monday. Mr. Ben-Gurion has done himself and morality no good and his calculations of political profit are likely to prove hopelessly wrong. A solemn national issue has been turned into a political brawl and the heavy hearts of a people who still mourn for their dead in Europe have been dragged out for exhibition as the symbols of unmitigated hatred. There is no sense and small pity in it.

It will be unfortunate if the response of fair-minded people should be to turn in the opposite direction and give the benefit of their shocked disapproval to these excesses to the German people. Between the Jews and the Germans, as between two-thirds of the world and the Germans, there is, indeed, a profound moral issue. It is less a matter of the material substance, of the technical means of fixing the payment, than of the place the Germans should be permitted to take among the nations. This issue cannot be fundamentally affected by a meeting between an official of the Treasury and an official of the Treasury at Jerusalem, especially as the Government of Israel would be acting less in its restricted capacity as a sovereign Government than as the agent for world Jewry. The issue cannot be affected by a cargo of goods from Hamburg any more than the issue of China's place among the nations can be affected by the cargoes of goods from China which go regularly to the United States of America. The savagery of the Germans will still be savagery when they have made a gesture of material recompense for the material damage they have done. No gesture of recompense for the moral and human damage they did is possible; and a very clear distinction between the two kinds of damage will have to be made and sustained.

CONSPICUOUS hatred and contrition will not make the Germans feel the weight of their sin. It remains for the State of Israel to harden its heart and raise its voice, not against just penalties and the exaction of such material reparations as can be exacted, but against the tendency of the world to restore nothing less than the old German threat. The Western Bloc and the Eastern Bloc in its own way, has remembered the Germans, who, with the Anglo-Saxons and even the French, are ready now to save our democratic civilization; and with the Slavs, to save us from the designs of warmongering imperialists. The Germans have it both ways. They have usually managed to have it both ways until the coming of the inevitable war, which has been intended to make both ways conform in principle and practice to their own engagingly Germanic way. The last two wars have been a miscalculation — an interruption in the national policy of humbugging the rest of the world, an essay, perhaps, in blunt and bludgeoning national honesty, at the cost of tens of millions of dead, more millions maimed, and a world left racked with nerves; until it can think of nothing else but the prospect of going to war all over again, with the atom bomb to help matters and the Germans bright and shining as ever at the forefront. It is here that conscience should bestir itself, not by angry refusal to let the Germans to work repairing some of the damage they did, but by urging upon the world that by little else but get to work repairing some of the damage they did, instead of being allowed to coast and cajole the world into writing off the damage as a bad debt. The Germans cannot be expunged. Their numerical vitality and geographical position make it impossible to ignore them. To attempt to ignore them, not to their own cost but to the cost of their victims, notably the Jews, is neither logic nor genuine morality, and may lead to an evasion of the whole profound issue of Germany's place among the nations.

Tel Aviv, January 8.

Western Security Scheme Passed By Committee

PARIS, Tuesday, (AP). — The U.N. Political Committee overrode loud Russian objections tonight and approved a collective security scheme permitting the U.N. to use regional armies such as the NATO forces.

The vote was 31 in favour, the Soviet bloc five—against, and Indonesia, India and Argentina abstaining.

The Committee decided to set up a panel of military experts to help to train, organize and equip units earmarked for U.N. service.

The Committee then adjourned until tomorrow as it was about to vote on a Soviet proposal for a high-level meeting of the Security Council to consider the Korean armistice.

Dr. Charles Malik (Lebanon) proposed the adjournment to allow delegates to go to a reception. The vote was 21 for adjournment, 16 against and 17 abstaining. The U.S., France and Britain abstained.

After the vote many delegates rushed away to the party, given by the Saudi Arabian envoy on the 26th anniversary of the coronation of King Ibn Saud.

Anglo-U.S. Asian Policy Discussed

WASHINGTON, Tuesday (AP). — American military chiefs may be asked what action the U.S. would take if Chinese Communists invaded Indo-China, when they meet delegates from France and Britain here on Friday.

A Defence Department announcement today only said that the conference would continue talks on South-East Asia which started between the three powers in Singapore last May.

The French Government has made no secret of the importance it attaches to the Washington talks. The French mission was headed by General Alphonse Juin, NATO ground force commander in Central and West Europe under General Eisenhower.

The Korean affair has overshadowed the collective measures proposed by the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Vyshinsky, to the Security Council to meet on a high representative basis without delay in what is technically called a periodic meeting.

The U.S., France, Britain and Brazil put up a counter proposal merely for such meetings of the Security Council when the Council deems the time is ripe for talks in an effort to ease international tensions.

There never was any doubt about the feelings of the committee on the collective measures proposed once the vote started after prolonged wrangling and speeches by Mr. Vyshinsky to abolish the Collective Measures Committee which would be replaced by a new one, six in favour, 11 opposed and 12 abstaining. Then the committee adjourned with the final overwhelming majority.

Truce Talks Still Marking Time

TOKYO, Tuesday. — U.N. and Communist delegates trying to draft an armistice and a prisoner exchange plan today agreed only on meeting again tomorrow.

The supervision subcommittee wrangled for 105 minutes and made "absolutely no progress," a U.S. spokesman said. Disagreement still centred on the Communist desire to remove airfields after an armistice is signed.

In the prisoners subcommittee, the U.N. submitted a redrafted version of their exchange plan, which answered technical objections. But the Communists rejected this version too.

Meanwhile, east of the truce talks site, counter-attacking Communist troops captured two important positions they had lost a few hours earlier, at Korogor.

Korogor, the New China News Agency alleged that eight U.S. planes were shot down. The message said that the Communists dropped bombs on Liaoning Province, where they were based on the China railway station, wounding three workers and destroying 370 metres of rail.

Ships Again Sailing Through Suez as Strikers Return

PORT SAID, Tuesday. — Egyptian strikers here, whose day of striking till their ships could go through the Canal or the way to Vladivostok, two contractors handling the ships went aboard and presented an Egyptian flag to each vessel.

The strikers returned to work this evening.

They came out yesterday, 1,500 strong—over an alleged "insult" to a union official.

The settlement brought relief to 16 ships lining up here without prospect of berthing or getting fuel or water, and to 23 Russian travellers with their depot ship, which berthed with British aid during the night.

The Suez Canal Company had appealed to the Egyptian Government, which did not reply. It also hoped for British intervention.

Anti-British demonstrations were begun, usually reliable sources said, as meetings of welcome to men of the Russian fishing fleet, who were

U.N. Discusses Arab Refugees

By MAURICE CARR, POST Correspondent

PARIS, Tuesday.—The Egyptian delegate, Mostafa Bey, today obliquely acknowledged that Arab leaders now fully realize the impracticability of the repatriation of Arab refugees. He was speaking before the Ad Hoc Political Committee, which resumed its debate on the Palestine question.

Arabs Counselled To Settle with Israel

The Arab states, and Jordan especially, should make up their minds now, before it is too late, to come to terms with Israel on the basis of mutual compromise, the British-controlled NEABS broadcast from Cyprus yesterday commenting on the U.N. Palestine debate.

The broadcast said the Arabs now regretted not having accepted the 1947 partition plan and the Ben-Gurion plan of 1948, and warned that, in another five years, they may regret not having come to terms with Israel now.

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TO HARMONIZE POLICIES

WASHINGTON, Tuesday (AP). — Mr. Churchill and President Truman were reported tonight to have expressed clear determination to harmonize British and American policies in the Middle East and Far East, including their attitudes towards Communist China, to the fullest extent possible.

Mr. Eden, Britain's Foreign Secretary, and Mr. Acheson, U.S. Secretary of State, were asked to investigate critical issues in these areas in conference, supplementing the talks between the Prime Minister and the President. They will discuss the British disputes with Persia, Iraq, Egypt and a unanimous joint policy on them, it was reported.

Belgium Rejects NATO Recommendations

BRUSSELS, Tuesday (Reuters). — Belgium has formally rejected the recent recommendations by NATO's "Three Wise Men" to increase her financial and industrial defence effort, a Government spokesman said today.

The spokesman said Belgium's reply to the "Three Wise Men" — Messrs Averell Harriman, Edward W. Plowden and Jean Monnet — was contained in a memorandum to Mr. Harriman as President of the NATO Temporary Council Committee, composed of the financial representatives of the 12 member nations.

Belgium was criticized in the three-man report on military programmes of NATO countries drafted early in December for spending less for defence in proportion to its wealth per head of population.

The spokesman said Belgium rejected the report's conclusions "because they were based on errors in over-optimistic statistical data and fundamental errors of approach."

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President's Health Improved

LYDDA AIRPORT, Tuesday (ITIM). — President Weizmann's condition has improved greatly during the past fortnight, but still remains uncertain. He is still confined to his bed. Mr. Meir Weizal, of the Weizmann Institute and close friend of the President, said here today, before leaving by BOAC for three-month visit to Britain and the U.S.

Auriol Asks Pineau To Form Cabinet

PARIS, Tuesday. — President Vincent Auriol today asked a Socialist leader, M. Christian Pineau, to form a Government to succeed the one overthrown by Socialist votes yesterday.

M. Pineau, 47, has been a Minister in several post-war Cabinets. He was appointed General de Gaulle's Food Minister in 1945 and last held office as Minister of Public Works in the Blaut Government, resigning with other Socialist Ministers on February 4, 1950.

Frankfurt's Fund For Israel Flood Victims

FRANKFURT, Tuesday (Reuters). — Frankfurt newspapers today published an appeal by the Jewish community to contribute to a fund to aid victims of recent storms in Israel.

It was decided yesterday to ask the city parliament to allocate 5,000 marks for the fund.

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BEN GURION WARMS AGAINST I.Z.L. PLOT

A WARNING IN THE STERNEST POSSIBLE TERMS THAT ALL AVAILABLE MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THE THREAT BY MENAHEM BEGIN AND HIS FOLLOWERS TO THE DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM OF THE PEOPLE WAS UTTERED BY PRIME MINISTER BEN GURION IN A BROADCAST TO THE NATION LAST NIGHT, WHILE THE KNESSET CONTINUED ITS DEBATE ON THE GERMAN REPARATIONS ISSUE. THERE WAS NO ATTEMPT TO REPEAT MONDAY'S ASSAULT ON THE KNESSET WHICH WAS MORE HEAVILY GUARDED THAN EVER BEFORE BY SEVERAL CORDONS OF POLICE RIOT SQUADS. THE DEBATE IS EXPECTED TO BE CONCLUDED TODAY.

Discussion on German Talks Premier's Broadcast Resumed in Tense Atmosphere To the Nation

By MOSHE BRILLIANT, POST Parliamentary Reporter

The debate on the proposed negotiations with Bonn for reparations continued yesterday in the Knesset which was cordoned off from the rest of Jerusalem by several rings of barbed wire and cordons of steel-helmeted police. The atmosphere in the Knesset hall remained tense, but except for occasional shouting from the distance and a stray shot, the terror of the day before had been removed.

The windows broken on Monday were repaired during the night and were covered with wire netting for protection. Delegations representing the demonstrators in the city were brought to the Knesset building and received by the President. The groups, representing the Democratic Women's Organization in Israel, a Communist organization, Hebrew University students, former European partisans, and finally a group of left-wing intellectuals.

The debate will close today and a coalition majority appeared assured. The Communists have asked for a roll-call. On the Knesset floor, there was no healing of the rift between the group opposing dealings with Germany and the Government supporters who favoured taking up the offer made by Adenauer to discuss reparations with the Israeli Government. There were conflicting views about the motives of the West German offer.

Mr. Pinhas Rosen, who came originally from Berlin, said the motives were to curry favour with Israel as a growing force in international affairs and as a mark of atonement. But opponents questioned the sincerity of the offer and said the purpose was to convey an impression of conciliation with Israel. The critics felt that only symbolic reparations would be paid and Bonn was interested primarily in the negotiations. Thus, the Ben-Gurion Government was playing into their hands.

The leftists described it as a reactionary plot to whitewash the Western Germans who were being groomed as the spearhead of new borders for an attack on Russia.

Mr. Rosen, who was the first speaker yesterday, argued that now that Israel was a nation, there were things more important than feelings of eternal hatred or revenge. The nation was commanded to take reparations and use them to build the country. If, as Mapam speakers had said, the Bonn Government was not the more reason why the money should be taken from them, he said.

With his customary fire, the former Minister of Education, Mr. Zalman Shazar (Mapam) said with great passion that thanks to the Defence Army of Israel, the Jewish people were for the first time since Titus, able to claim reparations. For 2,000 years, he went on, the Jewish people had been a pillar to post, but had never been able to claim compensation. Acceptance of reparations would mean forgiveness of Germany. All of Southern France was rebuilt with German reparations money, but the Frenchmen still hated the Boche, he argued.

The Communist speaker, Mr. Shmuel Mikunis, said that the whole thing was a conspiracy to divide the Jewish people. He said that the Jewish people were being used by the Government to build the country. If, as Mapam speakers had said, the Bonn Government was not the more reason why the money should be taken from them, he said.

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